

Moving On, Up and Out

Written by Nanon Talley
Thursday, 28 July 2011 16:44

Although the majority of youth in custody are male, females are also involved with Utah Division of Juvenile Justice Services (JJS).

Their involvement includes probation, case management, and incarceration. In an attempt to prevent girls, who pose a moderate to high risk of continued delinquent behavior, from being incarcerated, JJS began using the gender-responsive program, Girls... Moving On™.

Developed by Dr. Marilyn Van Dieten of Orbis Partners Inc, Girls... Moving On™ is one of the first research-based curriculums available to juvenile justice systems and is designed to assist girls between the ages of 12-21 who have entered the criminal justice system. The primary goal of the program is to provide girls with alternatives and choices free from criminal activity.

Using cognitive-behavioral techniques to help girls build new skills, Certified Program Facilitators assist them in the identification and mobilization of personal and community resources.

"I never knew there were so many other ways of handling my anger," said one program participant. "I don't even fight with my mom anymore." Another participant commented, "This program has helped me to not give up on myself. I now plan to go to college and have a life away from the drugs."

Moving On, Up and Out

Written by Nanon Talley
Thursday, 28 July 2011 16:44

While the program has only been offered for the past year in Utah, it is currently offered in St. George, Ogden, Salt Lake City and Provo. The girls who have completed the program have not committed further delinquent offenses and have or will be released from Juvenile Court jurisdiction. "Your program has been awesome for my daughter," a mother of a program graduate told staff. "She is living proof of a person who can truly grow and learn and change their lives! I pray your program never dies!"